

bailout plan because of that level of suffering, because of that significance to individual workers and families and the economy as a whole.

That may seem a bit of an odd statement to some folks. Why do I say that? Well, for two reasons. No. 1, this proposal, at its core, is about giving these companies \$15 billion of loans, \$15 billion on the promise of a detailed restructuring plan yet to come. So we give them significant amounts of money—\$15 billion—so that they go through that process, so that they start that discussion, so that they come back to us months later with a detailed restructuring plan.

Well, my reaction to that is pretty simple. I think the average American would say: What? Isn't that putting the cart before the horse? \$15 billion, and then later, after that is out the door, we will see a detailed restructuring plan? Secondly, even more important than that, it means that the impetus, the pressure to make that restructuring truly fundamental, truly to the core, which is absolutely necessary for these companies to survive, that pressure is not nearly as great as if we held the money until that detailed restructuring plan was presented.

The second reason I will vote against this bailout plan, the second reason I believe it actually would doom these companies to failure is that I believe it politicizes the management of these companies right at a time where they need to move in the opposite direction so that business and engineering considerations alone guide their company's futures.

Let me say bluntly, I have no confidence—absolutely no confidence—in the present management of these three companies. But let me also say, if there is a way for that to go from bad to worse, it is by injecting into the process politics and a political appointee such as this so-called car czar. That would make a very bad situation very much worse. It would politicize further the management of these companies, again, when they need to move to a situation where business and engineering considerations alone guide their decisions.

Another good, specific example of this politicization is language which has been in the proposal so far to actually prohibit these companies from legally challenging various moves for individual States to impose onerous, complicated, different environmental standards on them. Again, we are bringing political mandates, political pressure, political decisions to bear right at a time when these companies need to move in the opposite direction, get away from all of that, which has been a part of the reason they are where they are today, and base their future decisions on business and engineering considerations alone.

For these companies to survive, no matter what taxpayer dollars are involved, they need truly core fundamental restructuring. They need to re-

vamp and revisit all their obligations, all their business models, all their labor contracts, all their dealership associations—everything that constitutes them as they presently are. They need to do that; if not in a bankruptcy process, they need to do that through a process which is the equivalent of bankruptcy, just by another name.

This plan which is being worked on and will be presented before us is not that. What is worse, it is not only not that, I believe it will prevent that from ever happening and will, therefore, doom these companies to failure, no matter what taxpayer dollars are thrown at them.

Again, for this reason, I have reached what is for me a clear and inescapable conclusion. No. 1, I cannot support this general bailout plan. No. 2, because I believe this plan will actually doom the companies to failure, I will use every procedural tool available to demand a fair and open amendment process on the floor of the Senate and to delay and block the measure as it presently stands.

Mr. President, with that, I yield back the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

##### FALLEN PENNSYLVANIANS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, yesterday, I came before the Senate to pay tribute to Pennsylvanians who gave, as Abraham Lincoln said, "the last full measure of devotion" to their country serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Therefore, today, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the men and women of Pennsylvania who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. This struggle began in the weeks following the gravest attack on American soil; it was a direct response to eliminate the sanctuary of those who plotted the horrific events of 9/11.

The men and women who have served in Afghanistan have faced extreme danger but have persevered with a can-do spirit. Our men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces are indeed in a class of their own—all their own, I should say. And, like their brothers and sisters serving in Iraq, they mourn the sacrifices of their own.

So today in the Senate, I would also like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of those 25 Pennsylvanian heroes who may have fallen in the battles of Afghanistan but who have only risen in our appreciation for their service and sacrifice. I list them now:

CWO Michael Slobodnik of Gibsonia, PA;  
PFC Michael Dinterman of Littlestown, PA;  
LTC Richard Berrettini of Wilcox, PA;  
SPC Jonathan L. Luscher of Scranton, PA;  
SPC Derek Holland of Wind Gap, PA;  
PV2 Matthew Brown of Zelienople, PA;

1LT Jeffrey Deprimo of Pittston, PA;  
2LT Michael Girdano of Apollo, PA;  
SGT Douglas Bull of Wilkes-Barre, PA;  
SSG Troy Ezernack of Lancaster, PA;  
Po3 John Fralish of New Kingstown, PA;  
CPT Bryan Willard of Hummelstown, PA;  
SGT Jonathan McColley of Gettysburg, PA;  
SGT James Fordyce of Newtown Square, PA;  
SGT Brett Hershey of State College, PA;  
PFC James Dillon, Jr., of Grove City, PA;  
SSG Paul Sweeney of Lakeville, PA;  
SGT Christopher Geiger of Allentown, PA;  
SFC Scott Ball of Mount Holly Springs, PA;  
SGT Jan Argonish of Peckville, PA;  
SSG Patrick Kutschbach of McKees Rocks, PA;

CPT David Boris of Pottsville, PA;  
MSG Arthur Lilley of Smithfield, PA;  
1SG Christopher Rafferty of Brownsville, PA;  
MSG Thomas Maholic of Bradford, PA.

To the families of these brave Americans, please know your son's or daughter's service will always be remembered and appreciated. Every time a child is able to go to school in America without fear, that service is appreciated. Every time a graduate looks positively toward their future, to live in a land of freedom and liberty, those who have served are appreciated and their sacrifice is appreciated.

The response of these men and women—whether it was in Afghanistan or anywhere in the world that they served—their response to the ultimate call to service ensures that each of us may live in freedom.

As Benjamin Disraeli once said:

The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.

During this holiday season, when thoughts of our families and loved ones are on our minds, I wish to express my condolences and gratitude to those families who have loved and lost someone dear to them and also to express gratitude to those whose loved ones are now serving in a war theater far from home. Please know you are in our prayers.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PERSEVERANCE IN TOUGH TIMES

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise during this Christmas season to share with the Senate and the Nation an inspirational story from my home State of Montana. As a former public school teacher myself, I have known for a long time how amazing Montana's young people can be. This story is a story of triumph over tragedy that serves as the latest reminder.

Early on the morning of September 18, Montanans in and around Yellowstone County woke up to learn the tragic news that the Huntley Project